appointments and disproportionate assets and if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) An Assistant Manager in National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was sent on deputation to National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) in 1979 where he got absorbed w.e.f. 27-6-1983 as Deputy Manager. He was appointed in NAFED w.e.f. 8-10-1987 as Deputy Manager on an-Ex-cadre post with the approval of the Executive Committee of NAFED which is the competent authority under the Bye-laws of NAFED. As per statement of immovable property as on 17-4-1989 submitted by the said Officer, he jointly owns with his wife a DDA flat of LIG in New Delhi. He tendered his resignation on 29-9-87 on the plea of unavoidable circumstances in NCCF. It has been stated by the NCCF that no enquiry was initiated against him. NCCF and NAFED are National Level Cooperative Federations registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 who are competent to handle the service matters of the staff appointed by them.

(d) In view of answer to (a) to (c) above, the question of Government enquiring into these matters does not arise.

Minority Status to Jains

421. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindu, New Delhi dated the 17th June, 1989 under the caption, 'Move to give minority Status to Jains'; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) Government has seen the news item appearing in the Hindu of the 17th June, 1989. No such proposal to accord minority status to the Jain community is under consideration of Government.

Extension for telecast of TV serial 'Mahabharat'

422. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the producers of Mahabharat serial have asked for extension beyond the original schedule; and

(b) if so, what are the details there of and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Producer of the serial 'Mahabharat' has aksed for extension of this serial. Since it is felt that the producer is not able to complete the epic story in 52 episodes, the Government is agreeable to extend this serial by some more episodes.

Financial Assistance for construction of Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

423. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh for the construction of godowns by Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation during the last three years;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation has asked